



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Pete Woll called the July 22, 2109, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members - present:

Pete Woll, Chair; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Board members - absent: Lori Curtis, Vice Chair; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf, FCD staff; Niki Dezzani, Glacier Gateway; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM); Ian McKenzie and Holly McKenzie; Sean Johnson, Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS).

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek motioned "to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2019, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correction on page 3, the next business meeting is July 22, not 29.

Dean Sirucek motioned "to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019, Budget meeting as amended." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email – Events, Tours, Workshops, Training, Meetings

1. The **Area V meeting** will be hosted by Bitterroot Conservation District on September 24, 2019. Agenda and registration information will be sent out to districts in August.
2. Are you interested in learning what species are working **to improve forage quality of dryland pastures** in Lake County? Crow Creek Ranch will host a **field walk**, in partnership with Lake County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on July 31, 2019, to look at a 2016 dryland improvement planting that included 12 different grass species as well as legume and native wildflower species. Topics will include purpose, site prep, site maintenance and planning ideas! Contact Lake County CD, <https://lakecountyconservationdistrict.org/>



3. **Pollinator Conservation Workshop** in Thompson Falls. Sanders County MSU Extension, the Eastern Sanders Conservation District and the Lake County Conservation District will partner to host a short workshop, July 26, 2019, Noon – 1:00 P.M., on how you can make your property more bee friendly. Contact Juli Thurston at 406-827-6934 or juli.thurston@montana.edu with the Sanders County Extension to pre-register.
4. **2019 River Rendezvous**. July 26th on the Missouri River. The 2019 River Rendezvous is hosted by Valley County Conservation District, MT Fish Wildlife and Parks, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council. All activities will take place on July 26th, and the tour will leave from the Fort Peck Interpretive Center. This year's Rendezvous will highlight key features of the Missouri / Milk River confluence including: Pallid sturgeon habitat, irrigation, proposed crossing sites for the Keystone XL pipeline, management efforts for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, and more!
5. **2019 Montana Range Tour**, will be co-hosted by Upper Musselshell & Yellowstone Conservation Districts, September 4th & 5th, Harlowton, MT. Contact Cheryl Miller 406-632-5534, Ext. 101, or Stacy Barta, sbarta@mt.gov 406-930-0693
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-montana-range-tour-tickets-65050229989>
6. The **bi-annual MWCC Symposium** will be held October 14-16th, 2020 in Butte. Save the Date!
7. **Whitefish Planning Board meeting**, July 18, 2019, 6:00 P.M., Whitefish City Council Chambers. <http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/>

Email – Conservation Articles

1. **Ranching on the High Plains** by Gina Kerzman, NRCS, highlights how the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) and [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) through the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) have helped a family ranch sustainably, reach their conservation goals and improve the health of the grassland. <https://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d5453e8ed2b947c7ace0b1f7979fb5c1>
2. **New invasive grass invades Montana**
<https://www.seelelake.com/story/2019/07/11/opinion/new-invasive-grass-invades-montana/5003.html>

Email – Funding

1. **Research, Education & Development and Local Cooperative grants**
Applications are due January 6th, 2020. Current County Noxious Weed Management Plans must be on file with the Department. Final status reports for FY19 Special County/Reservation grant must be completed and approved (due November 30, 2019). **Emergency grants** are also available for herbicide control and/or revegetation efforts in areas that have suffered extreme drought or fire this summer. Applications are due November 1, 2019. All grant applications and instructions can be found at www.fundingmt.org. See [Grant Guidelines](#) or the [MDA website](#) for more information. Contact: Jasmine Reimer, State Noxious Weed Coordinator, Noxious Weed Program Manager, Montana Department of Agriculture. 406-444-3140, jreimer@mt.gov



2. **223, Mini Education, and District Development Grants.** Deadlines for the FY19 round of 223, Mini Education, and District Development Grants are as follows: July 17, 2019—we are extending this deadline to August 5, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.; October 23, 2019; January 15, 2020; April 22, 2020. Visit <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans> for more info.

Email - Newsletters

1. Montana Watershed Coordination Council *Watershed News*
<http://mtwatersheds.org/app/>
2. Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) *the Montana Conservationist* <https://swcdm.org/>
3. Petroleum Conservation District *District Dirt*
www.petroleumcd.com OR <https://www.facebook.com/Petcocd55>

Email – Job Opportunities

1. The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (**MACD**) is currently seeking to hire an **Executive Director**. The Executive Director is responsible for providing leadership and overall management of the organization. This includes communication with conservation districts and partners, legislative duties, representing conservation districts at a variety of events, and the administration and management of daily operations. Application Deadline: 26th July 2019; position to remain open until filled. Location: Helena, Montana. See macdnet.org/careers for more information

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$303.59
2. Safeguard Business Systems \$284.65
3. VISA \$1797.43

Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ian Makenzie, college scholarship recipient, thanked the board for the scholarship and stated that he will be studying civil engineering. He expressed gratitude and acknowledged that college is expensive and that the scholarship he received will be very helpful. He plans to attend Montana State University.

Flathead County Weed Partnership: Pete Woll reported that this topic is on hold until further discussion is held by the Flathead County Weed Board.



NEW BUSINESS

Education Grant Application: Nikki Dezzani presented an education grant request for \$940 to purchase a tower garden for Glacier Gateway school in Columbia Falls. She explained that she purchased a tower garden for her home last year and noticed how much more engaged kids are in learning about plants and eating vegetables when they have helped to grow them. She discussed the idea with the principle and teachers at Glacier Gateway and they agreed that it would be a beneficial addition to their science curriculum. Ronald Buentemeier asked for clarification about which school the tower garden would be for. Hailey replied Glacier Gateway and noted that previous grant requests for tower gardens were from Columbia Falls High School. Dean Sirucek asked about the annual costs for maintaining the tower gardens. Nikki explained that the annual cost is approximately \$1,100 for the seeds and nutrients.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to approve the education grant for Glacier Gateway in the amount of \$940.00.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost-Share Application: The board reviewed a cost-share program application for fall weed spraying. Ronald Buentemeier asked about the efficacy of spraying weeds in the fall and stated that he is only familiar with protocols for spring weed spraying. Hailey Graf stated that some fall spraying can be very beneficial, and Pete Woll explained that after the first hard frost there is a short window of time when the chemical is readily absorbed by some plants. Pete and Ronald asked Hailey to follow up with more information about fall weed spraying from the Flathead County Weed Department and the cost-share applicant.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to table the Dennison Cost Share application until the next business meeting and more information is available.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

End of Month Budget Report (June): The board reviewed the June 2019 End of Month Budget Report.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to approve the June 2019 End of Month Budget Report.” John Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy: Hailey Graf stated that Valerie Kurth had provided copies of the draft personnel policy to the board for review before her departure. Updates were reviewed and vetted by Donald MacIntyre. Supervisors expressed their support for approval of the personnel policy.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned to “approve the revised Personnel Policy dated July 2019.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. John Ellis abstained.



REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon – 310 summer ad with QR code & Pollinator Workshop.
2. Valerie Kurth and Hailey attended a Cow Creek planning meeting on July 11th.
3. Hailey created a flyer and outreach materials for the August 29th Pollinator Workshop. The flyer was distributed to local nurseries and other interested parties.
4. Hailey Graf and Pete Woll participated in the MACD Convention planning meeting on July 16th. The group discussed the proposed budget, menu, and speakers. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th.
5. Hailey attended the North Fork Interlocal meeting on July 10th and discussed 310 permitting with numerous residents. One resident has already submitted an application.
6. Hailey posted the vacancy announcement to the District's website and Facebook page, Texas A&M Job board, the Flathead Beacon, the Flathead Job Service, the Montana Conservationist, the District Dispatch, and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council newsletter.
7. Hailey met with representatives from the Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park to begin planning for the NW Montana Fair exhibit.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek – Valerie coordinated a meeting with planning partners on July 11th to review next steps, permitting, and needs from the contractor. Valerie, Hailey and Samantha Tappenbeck met with Mild Fence Co. to discuss fencing options and budget. Hailey and Samantha continue to coordinate with landowners and partners and to work on the permitting process.

Landowner Programs

Cost-Share Program – Hailey has met with three different landowners to discuss options for cost-share opportunities. One landowner has submitted an application for the 2019 Fall weed spraying program.

Education and Outreach

Rolling Rivers Trailer – Hailey presented a demonstration using the Rolling Rivers Trailer to the Stream Ecology class at Summit Prep High School. The students then used the trailer to conduct an experiment determining possible increases in water velocity following the removal of a riparian area.

Demonstration Garden – Final grading and hardscaping were completed by Green Earth Gardening on July 15-19. Metal edging was placed around the paths, the rain garden areas were dug and lined with rock, wood chips were placed in the outdoor classroom area, and topsoil was spread in preparation for planting. Hailey met with Casey Lewis to conduct an infiltration test for the rain garden site and photographed the process for use in education and outreach materials. Planting will begin on Wednesday, July 24th.



Website/social media - Blog post topics for May included: *Free Family Fishing Ponds, What's the Point of a Mosquito?*, and updates about the Demonstration Garden. Over the last 30 days, the website had 843 users and 2,046 pageviews. The Facebook page reached 2,645 users and had 202 post engagements.

Dean Sirucek asked about a possible field trip to the Cow Creek site. Samantha explained that they hope to get a hardened crossing put in this fall. Dean suggested that they could go view it after some of the work had been completed.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM): Samantha Tappenbeck, reported that she has been working with NRCS to develop long range plans, and is working with District staff to move the Cow Creek project forward.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson reported:

➤ **Programs**

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Processing selected applications for funding
 - FY2020 sign-up
 - All National fund pools along with FY19 funded TIP's will have a sign-up deadline of August 30th
 - Long Range plans needs to be approved by 12/31 and FY2020 TIPs also need to be submitted by 12/31
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Processing current applications
 - Should hear this week if any are selected for funding

➤ **Review Items**

- Montana Focused Conservation (MFC) Steering Committee Meeting – 7/17-7/18
 - Finalized language in Targeted Implementation Plans (TIP's) development guidelines and review process
 - Set FY2020 sign-up deadline for applications other than FY2020 TIPs which will have a sign-up deadline of probably early April

➤ **Upcoming Items**

- Fire Safe Flathead meeting
 - Thursday July 25th
 - Thursday August 22nd

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Will be on leave from 8/9-8/18

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported that Jeff Tiberi is still working to get caught up in his interim position. Planning for the MACD Convention (November 18-21) continues to move forward. Additionally, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) is working to fill the Executive Director position.



Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported that there were five items on the agenda, one which affects the District indirectly. Dean explained that (in 2016) the District approved funds towards the final design of the North Shore Flathead Lake Erosion Control Project. A death in the Sliter family complicated project implementation, however, the family is now going forward with the project. Dean added that three zoning changes and a subdivision went forward to the County Commissioners with positive recommendations.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported that the WCPB approved construction of a large guest house near Whitefish Lake with the suggestion that the owners hook up to the city sewer system to avoid another large septic drain field so close to the lake. John noted that Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) may be interested in this project. A request for two large apartment buildings in the Whitefish City Beach neighborhood was sent to the City Council with no recommendation. John noted there are traffic concerns.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): Lori Curtis submitted the following report: The last meeting of the UC³ was held on May 15 in Polson. Tom Woolf from FWP unveiled his Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Advisory Group through which he will provide regular AIS updates and provide a forum to discuss observations, recommendations, and give feedback on current AIS activities. Tom created an email list of participants – anyone who wants to join should email Tom at Thomas.woolf@mt.gov.

Representative Willis Curdy and Senator Mike Cuffee attended the meeting and gave a legislative review of the session regarding AIS bills:

- SB257 enabled additional membership on the UC3 commission involving new geographic areas.
- HB32 EQC to provide oversight, interim committee to recommend programmatic funding
- HB411 final funding package

The UC3 Annual Report was discussed as content needs to be developed for reporting on activities completed in 2018 and plans for 2019. The new legislative members of the UC3 were announced. The next meeting will be October 8 location to be determined.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Dean Sirucek reported that the FBC discussed septic leachate and recent changes from legislative bills. FBC has decided to move forward with getting a Big Sky Watershed Corps member to work on stormwater runoff issues. The next meeting is planned for September.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): No report.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

FY 2019/2020 Budget: Ronald Buentemeier stated that he would like to readdress some of the line items in the FY 2019/2020 budget, and Hailey Graf suggested a meeting to help clear up any confusion. Revenue and mil levies were also discussed. The FY 2019/2020 Budget will be added to the August Business meeting agenda.

Fair: Hailey Graf asked supervisors to sign up to help in the fair booth.

Convention Sponsorship List: Hailey Graf provided the draft convention sponsorship request list to the board for review and asked that any suggestions for additions be submitted to her by Friday, July 26. She also asked that if any supervisors have a personal connection with an organization on the list that they consider signing the request letter.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: John Ellis motioned “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Submitted By:

Hailey Graf
Interim Resource Conservationist

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

8/12/2019 Lori Curtis Vice Chair
(Date) (Signature) (Title – Chair etc.)

